UNITED NATIONS

TCDC

Technical co-operation among developing countries

Distr.
LIMITED

TCDC/7/6
10 April 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Seventh session
New York, 28-31 May 1991

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE TCDC FOCAL POINTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Note by the Administrator

1. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of decision 5/6 of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), the Administrator makes available as an annex to the present document the report of the Third Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System, which was convened at Geneva on 5 and 6 June 1990 in response to paragraph 2 of the same decision.

2. The meeting was attended by TCDC focal points of 13 organizations (see annex, appendix III, summary assessment, para. 2.1). Among other things it examined the questions of financing to promote, catalyse and support TCDC activities; the organizations' initiatives to provide more orientation and training of staff, particularly field personnel, on TCDC and the programming of TCDC activities; and information in support of TCDC. The meeting also discussed some of the impediments still facing wider adoption of the TCDC programming modality - lack of information, procedural difficulties, budgetary constraints and the need for continued "aggressive promotion" of TCDC. The meeting also reviewed and introduced modifications to the reporting format for the organizations' submissions at the seventh session of the High-level Committee.

3. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 12 (a) through (f) of the annexed report, which contain the meeting's recommendations.

Annex

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF TCDC FOCAL POINTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM, 5 AND 6 JUNE 1990

A. Organization, duration and venue of meetings

1. The Third Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System was convened by the Administrator of UNDP and was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 5 and 6 June 1990. The meeting was chaired by Mr. S. M. S. Chadha, Director, Special Unit for Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries. Mr. Edward C. White, Principal Information Officer, INRES-South, Special Unit for TCDC, served as Secretary of the meeting. A working group of the meeting, chaired by Mr. Shahid Husain, Deputy Director, Special Unit for TCDC, refined the organizations' reporting format for their submissions to the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC at its seventh session.

2. During his introductory remarks Mr. Chadha stressed the consultative nature of the meeting, and the fact that the participants would have the opportunity to be briefed on the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of the group of intergovernmental experts on TCDC which had taken place in New York from 9 to 20 April 1990 (see document DP/1990/77). He then introduced the draft agenda for the meeting (see appendix II), which was adopted without modification.

B. Participation

3. The following organizations of the United Nations development system (UNDS) were represented at the meeting: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); International Maritime Organization (IMO); International Labour Organisation (ILO); International Trade Commission (ITC); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC); United Nations Department for Technical Cooperation for Development (UNDTCD); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); World Health Organization (WHO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A full list of participants is contained in appendix I of this report.

C. Agenda and documentation

4. Documentation for the meeting included the following:

(a) Agenda (appendix II);

(b) Final report of the Second Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System, 25-26 February 1988;

(c) Report of the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries (DP/1990/77, thirty-seventh session of the UNDP Governing Council);

(d) Draft revised format for the report to the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC at its seventh session, covering the period 1 January 1989-31 December 1990 (as modified by the focal points meeting, see below, appendix III).

D. Conclusions

5. During its deliberations on agenda items 1 through 3 the meeting underscored the point that, notwithstanding the primary responsibility of the Governments concerned to arrange the financing of TCDC projects, some funds were necessary for promoting, catalysing and supporting TCDC activities. Some speakers alluded to the initiatives undertaken by their organizations to find such funds from a variety of sources, while others indicated that their work had been hampered by the general shortage of technical cooperation funds, which had led to a reduction in funds available for TCDC.

6. A number of participants described activities in which their organizations had been involved during the past two years to provide more orientation and training of staff in their own organizations, particularly field personnel, on TCDC and the programming of TCDC activities, as well as to produce a growing number of publications about TCDC. As a result of these initiatives, it was felt that there was now increased awareness of what TCDC was, of the differences between TCDC and utilization of developing countries' capacities under traditional technical assistance arrangements, and of how certain types of project activities having the latter orientation could move an agency forward towards increased TCDC as defined by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

7. It was generally felt that TCDC was still a largely underutilized potential for development cooperation. There was a frank discussion of some of the impediments still facing wider adoption of the TCDC programming modality, including lack of information, procedural difficulties, budgetary constraints, etc., and the need for continued "aggressive promotion" of TCDC. Despite what was currently being accomplished, often with minimal resources allocated, the role of TCDC focal points within organizations was felt by some speakers to need reinforcement, just as did that of national TCDC focal points, in order for them to be fully effective.

8. A number of speakers mentioned their increasingly close operational links with the Special Unit. Several indicated that their organizations had already participated with the Special Unit in TCDC programming activities and felt

that that was an especially valuable form of collaboration. One agency mentioned having already reached agreement to house the INRES-South database, others expressed interest either in doing so or in entering a more active exchange of database information with INRES-South.

9. During the discussions, the Special Unit was able to clarify a number of points regarding the financing of TCDC projects. Concerning the difficulty of some development banks in reconciling the financing of TCDC activities with their normal competitive bidding procedures, Mr. Chadha mentioned that UNDP was engaging in talks with some of the banks on that very issue. It was also pointed out that there was no statutory limit on the amount of its national IPF that any country may use, if it wished, for the execution of its own projects employing the TCDC modality. At the same time, by decision 81/31 the UNDP Governing Council had enabled the countries to use up to $10 million or 7.5 per cent, whichever was smaller, of their IPFs in TCDC activities benefiting other developing countries. Moreover, the Special Unit would be able to consider providing SPR funding support to a limited number of projects in which developing country institutions encouraged by organizations of the UNDS would carry out operational research leading to specific problem-solving methods or to the identification of areas of collaboration among developing countries in, or between, different sectors.

10. Under agenda item 4, "Any other matters", a working group of the meeting reviewed and introduced modifications to the draft revised format for the organizations' submissions to the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC at its seventh session. Specifically, it was agreed that the period covered by the statistical reports would be aligned with the two calendar years of the biennium, i.e. 1 January 1989 to 31 December 1990. Organizations would submit the narrative portions of their reports as soon as they were ready before the deadline. The statistical reports, which relied on figures not available before the end of the year (or later) would be provided as close to the deadline of 31 January 1991 as possible. Another important modification agreed upon was the inclusion of an optional item in which organizations could report any particular success stories or innovative TCDC projects carried out during the preceding biennium. While those might not always be included in the report to the High-level Committee, depending on space limitations, it was agreed that that would provide the Special Unit with highly useful information which could serve for reference purposes. The new format, as modified, is contained in annex III of this report. It was agreed that the practice of adding the organizations' submissions to the Administrator's report to the High-level Committee would be maintained.

11. Also under "Any other matters" a briefing on the current status and a live demonstration of the INRES-South database were provided on the second day of the meeting, and there was a discussion of the prospects for simplification of some of the procedures followed in project INT/83/904.

E. Recommendations

12. The meeting made the following recommendations:

(a) The role of TCDC focal points within organizations should be strengthened. The UNDP Administrator would be advised to draw the attention of the executive heads of organizations to the following decisions of the High-level Committee adopted at its sixth session, which requested that the TCDC focal points be closely associated with all phases of the decision-making process by, inter alia, ensuring their active participation in the relevant organs and committees of the respective organizations.

(b) The catalytic role of outside funding of TCDC projects should not be interpreted so strictly as to imply only marginal support to TCDC activities.

(c) There should be increased collaboration with and participation in TCDC programming activities by organizations of the UNDS, particularly single focus (single capacity) workshops.

(d) Organizations of the UNDS should further explore possibilities for "triangular" TCDC arrangements, in which two (or more) organizations jointly support a national, subregional or regional TCDC activity, as has already been tried successfully by two organizations.

(e) Concerning the report of the April 1990 intergovernmental meeting of experts on TCDC, the participants agreed, following thoughtful consideration of its contents, that the meeting should take note of the report and, even in advance of the UNDP Administrator's official transmittal of the document to the executive heads of organizations, the TCDC focal points would share the report with concerned officers in their organizations.

(f) Regarding the two-day meeting of developing countries with agencies on TCDC requested at the fifth and sixth sessions of the High-level Committee, it was agreed that the meeting should have a practical focus, dealing in particular with such substantive issues as the constraints to TCDC programming, feasible actions to get around the constraints, ways of institutionalizing the solutions found, etc. In view of the difficulties of working out an appropriate timing, it was agreed that the Special Unit would explore and propose one of three options: (i) a meeting during the 1990 General Assembly session; (ii) a meeting in March/April 1991 either in New York, Geneva or a developing country (that was highly desirable, but might pose a funding problem); or (iii) a meeting just before the seventh session of the High-level Committee.

Appendix I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

FAO

Ms. Therese Raick
Programme Officer
TCDC, Interregional and Global Programme
and other Special Matters, DDFG
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100
Rome, Italy
Tel: 06-57975288

Mr. Antonio Stocchi
Programme Assistant
DDF, Room D-733
FAO - Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100
Rome, Italy
Tel: 06-57975276

IAEA

Ms. Christa Langer
Programme Coordination Section, TC
IAEA, A-1400, Vienna, Austria
Tel: 2360/6017

IMO

Mr. Leighton van Nort
Director, Technical Cooperation Division
IMO, 4 Albert Embankment, London S.E. 1
England
Tel: (071) 735-7611

ILO

Mr. Bernd Balkenhol
POLTEC
ILO CH 1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland
Tel: 041-22-7996070

ITC

Mr. Gerd-D. Langer
Senior Advisor, Chambers of Commerce
ITC, Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: 041-22-7300312/7334439

UNCTAD

Ms. Aurelie Wartensleben
Deputy Chief, Joint Technical Cooperation Unit
UNCTAD, Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: 041-7346011

Mr. Hugo Cubillos
Senior Advisor, Operational Activities
UNCTAD, Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: 041-7346011 ext. 5744

UNCTC

Mr. Hans-Fredrik Samuelsson
Chief, ECE/UNCTC Joint Unit
Palais des Nations, Bur. 350
CH 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: 041-22-7346011 ext. 2390/3151

UNDTCD

Mr. T. Shrestha
Chief, Policy Coordination Branch
Policy, Programme and Development Planning Division
United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development
New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel: 01-212-963-8424

UNESCO

Mr. Eduardo Morales-Rodriguez
Senior Programme Officer
Bureau for Operational Activities
Unesco, 7 Place Fontenoy
Paris, France 75007
Tel: 45681523

UNIDO

Mr. David Rakotopare
Liaison Officer, Geneva
UNIDO Liaison Office
Villa les Feuillantines
Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: 041-22-7332993/7336011 ext. 3373

WHO

Dr. Cedomir Vukmanovic
Medical Officer, Focal Point for TCDC
ICO/HQ, WHO
27 avenue Apia
CH 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: 041-22-7912735

WMO

Mr. Didier van de Vyrere
Scientific Officer
Technical Cooperation Department
WMO, Case Postale 2300
CH 1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Tel: 041-22-7308298/7342326

Mr. Bernard Lagarde
Programme Officer
Technical Cooperation Department
WMO, Case Postale 2300
CH 1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Tel: 041-22-7308298/7342326

UNDP

Mr. S. M. S. Chadha
Director, Special Unit for TCDC
UNDP, FF-1200
New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel: 01-212-906-5728

Mr. Shahid Husain
Deputy Director, Special Unit for TCDC
UNDP, FF-1200
New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel: 01-212-906-5726

Mr. Edward C. White
Principal Information Officer
INRES-South, Special Unit for TCDC
UNDP, FF-1200
New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel: 01-212-906-5734

Appendix II

Third Meeting of TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System

Geneva, 5-6 June 1990

AGENDA

1. Review of progress of implementation of the recommendations of the Second Meeting of TCDC Focal Points of Organizations of the UNDS, held in New York 25-26 February 1988.

2. Implications for UNDS of decisions of the sixth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC, and General Assembly resolutions 44/222 and 44/223.

3. Review of recommendations of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the UNDS concerning TCDC, convened in New York, 9-20 April 1990, and of the Governing Council's decision on those recommendations.

4. Any other matters.

   - INRES-South: briefing and demonstration
   - Procedures for INT/83/904.

Appendix III

REPORTING FORMAT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

SPECIAL UNIT FOR TCDC

Progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

1 January 1989-31 December 1990

REPORTING FORMAT

May 1990 (rev. 1)

INTRODUCTION

1. The High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its fifth session (18-22 May 1987) recommended that each of the organizations of the United Nations system undertake every two years a review of its activities in relation to implementation of tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing TCDC. The High-level Committee has requested that progress reports be submitted by the organizations to the Committee at its biannual sessions.

2. The reporting format for this purpose has undergone a number of changes reflecting comments expressed by various agencies/organizations of the United Nations development system during the second and third meetings of the TCDC focal points of the organizations of the United Nations development system, held in New York and Geneva in 1988 and 1989, respectively.

3. The present format is designed to simplify the reporting requirements. Attention of the organizations is drawn to paragraphs 4 and 5 of decision 6/2 of the High-level Committee, and paragraphs 5, 10 and 12 of decision 6/3. a/

4. Organizations are urged to keep in view the letter and spirit of the relevant decisions of the High-level Committee, paying conspicuous attention to the quantitative data, and to the critical but brief analysis and assessment which the currently revised format is intended to elicit. It is

---

a/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/44/39), annex I.

proposed to structure the report into two sections: the first is to deal with a summary narrative of what has actually transpired during the period under review, to be supplemented by corresponding statistical information, which is the subject of the second section. The material submitted by the organizations will be kept intact in the report.

5. Taking into consideration the time requirements for processing the consolidated report, organizations are requested to submit their reports no later than 31 January 1991.

SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

This section, which should not exceed two pages, must contain information in the way in which the reporting organization wants it to appear in the consolidated UNDS report to the High-level Committee without abridgement or editing.*

Using the major thematic issues which have been under constant review before the High-level Committee assessment can conveniently be done under the following four subheadings:

I. Support to promotional and operational TCDC activities

1.1 Promotional activities are those that are intended to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to engage in TCDC activities of an operational nature. Partial or full cost of these activities may be borne by the United Nations system.

1.2 Operational activities are development activities involving the deliberate and voluntary sharing or exchange of technical resources, skills and capabilities between two or more developing countries. They are initiated, organized, managed and financed primarily by the participating developing countries themselves. The United Nations system's support to these activities can only be supplementary or catalytic in nature.

1.3 The most important feature here would be to focus on the activities which have taken place during the reporting period and the kind of catalytic contributions made by the organizations towards their attainment and the constraints being encountered. Since the statistical portion related to this section, and to those below, will be the subject of the second section, there will be no need to go into detail here on the monetary value or the output other than to indicate the total volume of resources disbursed for the appropriate category of activities during the reporting period.

II. Measures taken (or planned) to strengthen the organizations' supportive role in promoting TCDC

2.1 Of special significance to be mentioned here are: the organizations' financial bases for TCDC; strengthening of the role of the organizations' focal points for TCDC and their sectoral counterparts at the country level; any legislative enactment or administrative and/or organizational improvements

---

* It should be noted that existing reporting guidelines limit the number of pages of any report to the HLC (or to any United Nations governing body) to 24, excluding statistical annexes. It is important therefore that organizations' individual narrative account reports not exceed two pages (single spaced).

designed to enhance the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the organizations' support to TCDC at the country, intercountry, regional and global levels. Please describe any measures taken for briefing and training personnel in TCDC and any publications, newsletters, etc. planned or issued in respect of TCDC.

III. Use of developing countries' capacities

3.1 Implementation of the organizations' mandates for the procurement of goods and services for technical cooperation through recruitment of experts, placement of fellows, award of contracts, and procurement of equipment and supplies warrants similar attention. Of course, the obstacles that impede progress in this area should also be addressed. The data should be analytically compared with that of the preceding reporting period to show any net increase or decrease, and the direction of the general thrust of the organizations in utilizing such capacities. Specific measures planned or those being implemented by the organization to overcome such constraints as encountered in the selection of training facilities, recruitment of experts, award of contracts, etc. should be represented.

IV. Innovative approaches to TCDC

4.1 As an annex to their reports agencies may wish to include information on one or two examples of innovative or new approaches to TCDC activities.